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SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1915.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

CONSIDERATE.

There's just one thing about Trouble that I really think I like,
And that is simply this, that when he deems it time to strike
He somehow sort of seems to spread himself along the way—
A little here today,
And some again tomorrow,
He ladies off his sorrow
And seldom fronts
Us with his awful legions all at once—
Which, while I do not love him,
I truly think upon the whole is rather thoughtful of him.

(Copyright, 1915.)

That legend about the rain and St. Switchen's day turned out to be at least 90 per cent true this year.

The Welsh coal miners are again on strike. At least their course is not calculated to retard the policy of conscription.

The news that no one is permitted to leave France now with more than \$10 in coin sounds like a summer resort note.

Indications are that the Excise Board will have no difficulty in complying with the provision of the Jones-Works law which requires that the number of saloons in Washington be kept below 300. The \$15,000 license fee has undoubtedly done the business.

Carranza has begun the re-establishment of his capital in Mexico City, and seems to be well prepared to co-operate with the man who is to receive the "active moral support" of the United States, provided that man is to be Carranza.

All that we can say about that kiss bestowed on the expansive smile of a former Secretary of State by a bewhiskered German farmer at Kingman, Kans., is that he had it coming to him. This Kansas idea suggests great possibilities in the way of dealing with public men who are impervious to ordinary treatment.

A London newspaper predicts that one result of the war's cost will be the sacrifice of a great quantity of art treasures by the British nation. It is suggested that many valuable art objects will be purchased by wealthy Americans. Also a big boom in the bogus art market may be looked for in which some of the wealthy Americans will be "stung" again.

In the last fiscal year, throughout which the war was raging, the United States for the first time in its history led the world in exports, having sent abroad products valued at \$2,768,600,000, an increase of 17 per cent compared with the previous year. Most of the increase was made in the latter half of the year, in spite of the blockade which we are told by the pro-German agitators has worked such havoc with our commerce.

That sorrowful youth who returned the license issued to him to wed a pretty Maryland widow after he learned she was not in earnest when she accepted his heart and hand, need not lose hope. The fair object of his affections explained: "Why, I was kidding him last night as we were returning from Chesapeake Beach. He asked me to marry him and I consented. I was only joking, however." It was a mistake to return the license. If he will just take the widow to Chesapeake Beach, once more and watch the waves with her in the moonlight, he will have to make another trip to the license commission.

The people of the United States contributed \$4,000,000 in internal taxes last year, including the corporation and individual income taxes—the largest internal revenue ever raised. But in spite of this, figures the administration still appears to be confronted with the necessity of adopting some means of raising revenue to take the place of the special "tax" which expires by limitation at the end of the calendar year. Democratic swindlers will find some difficulty in explaining the heavy taxation in the campaign next year.

Commenting on the majority report of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, the New Republic says: "As you read the report you are struck with the fact that any competent journalist might have written it. Although hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent, although many investigators have been at work, the product is a document which would have been true to a radical magazine writer before Mr. Walsh appeared on the scene. To be sure, the statements it contains are not true to the American public as a whole. But what assurance is there that Mr. Walsh's statements will be read and taken to heart when so many similar statements have been ignored? This is the disheartening fact about Mr. Walsh's work—not that he made so many speeches at the wrong time, but that his agitation is in the end commonplace and ineffective." Apparently it is the almost unanimous opinion of the commission's reviewers that the taxpayers of the country have been compelled to contribute something like half a million dollars for a literary production that lacks even the merit of originality.

Investigators Handicapped.

District Attorney Laskey, explaining why it was necessary to ask aid of the Department of Justice in the present investigation of police graft charges, makes the revelation that throughout the inquiry his office has been handicapped by a lack of funds.

Mr. Laskey's statement explains, in part, the slow progress thus far made in fastening the guilt upon grafting policemen. The zeal which Mr. Laskey and his assistant, Mr. Hawken, have exhibited in this direction has been all but wasted by the circumstance that the meagerness of the funds at their disposal does not permit them to engage agents for the task of hunting down the most important witnesses.

While the District attorney's office is thus handicapped at a time when the honor of Washington and its police department is at stake, the force presided over by Maj. Raymond W. Pullman would appear to have both funds and time in abundance. The censoring of theatrical performances by policemen whose qualifications for that task are strongly in doubt; invasions of private homes on the flimsiest of pretexts; spectacular but futile raids on restaurants and arrests of giddy and beer-guzzling crowds have been among recent police activities. While the District attorney lacks funds with which to pursue an investigation involving the reputation of the entire city, the police force has been dallying with peccadilloes and indulging in the pastime of supervising inconsequential private morals.

Judgment as to whether the people's money is being frittered away by a police force addicted to child's play while the funds thus wasted are sorely needed for serious activities, hinges upon the question whether beer-guzzling and unsabatical high kicks are greater offenses than the levying of tribute upon fallen women.

Conflict in the Postoffice.

If it be true that a special committee of officials of the Postoffice Department, appointed to investigate and report on the efficiency of the Washington city postoffice has recommended the establishment of a branch office in the department building at Pennsylvania avenue and Eleventh street northwest, Postmaster General Burleson's course is clear. He should establish the branch office or he should abolish or curtail the operations of the efficiency commission. Postmaster Praeger has twice denied the petition of Washington business men that they be provided with adequate facilities for the transaction of their business with the postoffice within easy access of their places of business. That these busy merchants have not been wasting their time in arguments and representations intended to procure for them something of which they are not in need must be quite obvious to Postmaster Praeger, as it is to every one who has been at all interested in the earnest and persistent campaign. The postmaster must have recognized the justice of the demand and the vital importance of a properly equipped branch office to the interests of his petitioners. And now it is announced that an efficiency committee of the department, appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the merits of just such questions, has taken a position on the side of the business men, realizing the soundness of their contentions. If the efficiency commission is efficient its action should end the argument and the office should be established. If it is not efficient, or if the Postmaster General and the city postmaster regard their own wisdom and knowledge of the situation as superior, then there is no further excuse for the commission's existence.

It is possible, of course, that it is the deficit that prompts the rejection of the demands of the business men and the commission's recommendations. In that case, while the unfairness of applying economy so as to impose serious inconvenience upon a large and important class of patrons of the service is manifest, the efficiency commission should be instructed to confine its activities wholly to restriction and money saving and to leave projects for progress and expansion alone.

The Washington 1915 Edition.

The Washington Herald presents with today's issue a comprehensive and illuminating summary of Washington's achievements, aims and ideals as they appear in 1915. It has attempted to convey an impression of its commercial, architectural, educational and cultural wonders. It has sought to picture its potentialities and to interpret its grasp for still greater accomplishments.

It is a great and difficult subject, if one would do it justice. Large and magnificent scenery requires a vast sweep of canvas. Those who have worked to make "Washington 1915 Edition" of The Herald a faithful reflection of the city's greatness may have failed in some respects, just as the artist will sometimes fail when the grandeur of his subject overwhelms him. But back of all their efforts has been a genuine desire to give at least a glimpse of the magnificence of Washington of today.

That magnificence is a credit to the city's builders, merchants, leaders in commerce, education and art.

Need for Gold.

The American supply of gold is growing. This makes money cheap. The cheaper money is the less bread it will buy. Abundance of gold we've got and abundance of gold we'll need.—Detroit Journal.

Ohio's Favorite Sons.

Ohio's offer of four candidates for the Republican nomination for President shows that there has been no decline in the State's traditional output of favorite sons. But the test of quality remains to be applied.—New York World.

Good Champagne Prospects.

Nature, as though to make amends for the free-handed acquisition of its stores of champagne by the invaders, is lavish in its promises to France of a bountiful vintage this year. In all the principal vine growing centers of the Champagne district free from the ravages of war the outlook for this season's yield is exceptionally good. The vines came through last winter's frosts practically unscathed, and with favorable growing weather since the beginning of May the fruit has set so well and developed so quickly that the crops are now from seven to fourteen days ahead of normal years. This is a providential dispensation for the growers, because, as most of the work is done by women, in the absence of men on the fighting fields, it has not been necessary to resort to the usual close cultivation requiring much manual labor to overcome the effects of bad weather.—Dunder Advertiser.

Anonymous Mischief-Making.

By JOHN D. BARRY.
A correspondent has asked me to write an article on "the vulgar and malicious use of anonymous writing."

The subject is one that, theoretically, at any rate, there can't be any disagreement about. We all know that malicious anonymous letter writing is a detestable practice. Those who indulge in it know perfectly well how it is regarded. Though they may have no shame of it in their own mind, they would be ashamed to be found out. As a rule, they are very careful to keep their indulgence a secret. They know that, if people were aware that they had once written an anonymous letter, they would be regarded as contemptible and dangerous.

It is not hard to trace the motives that lead to anonymous letter writing. In some cases they are, in themselves, harmless. They may even be actuated by agreeable qualities, such as modesty or by the desire not to let the recipient feel obliged to take the trouble to answer. Men in public life often receive such letters, containing praise, or kindly suggestions. Here, anonymous letter writing is unpleasant only through association.

So much harm is done by anonymous letters, however, so much evil goes into them, if not open distrust, as well as lack of frankness and willingness to assume just responsibility, that the mere idea of writing an anonymous letter through a good motive may, to the right-minded and sensitive person, be intensely disagreeable.

Often anonymous letters are written from a good motive improperly directed. For example, in everyday life there are people who think that others ought to be warned of this thing or that, or of this person or that person. Here the writer takes on himself responsibility without accepting the moral consequence of such responsibility, the willingness to come out in the open and offer reasons for his action. Some of the worst mischief done by anonymous letter writing results from anonymous letters written with the best intentions. The writer creates suspicion, and the person to whom they are charged could be investigated, it would be found that the charges resulted from their own blundering or from their own inability to judge wisely.

Where an anonymous letter writer makes accusations or sends warnings, he takes upon himself a prerogative almost godlike. Nearly always his appeal is to the feelings, that is, to the very springs of action in human beings. When once he has created suspicion he has started an influence that may work out in many kinds of evil. For there is nothing in the world so disastrous to wholesome human relations as suspicion, nothing that so inevitably does harm.

The moment we become suspicious of an acquaintance or a friend, at that moment we open the door to all kinds of misunderstandings and to resentment. For suspicion engenders suspicion in the one suspected. It leads to ill-feeling on both sides. And ill-feeling is always alert for a chance to express itself, even an excuse.

There are, of course, circumstances where anonymous letter writing may be justified. Often anonymous warnings have saved people from injury and death. Here the excuse for anonymity lies in the danger the writer would be subjected to if it were known that he had given warning. But such cases are rare. Besides, even in such cases, right as they are, anonymous letters may work an evil influence. They may serve as an excuse for those who merely fancy they are justified by the exigencies of circumstances in doing what those other writers have done so well.

It is sometimes amusing, but often pitiful, to note the high moral tone of anonymous letters, both sincere or insincere. Nearly always, like so much evil in the world, they try to masquerade as good. Even those anonymous letters that chastise people convey the assumption, either frankly in words, or by suggestion, that they are administering righteous chastisement.

Nearly always an anonymous letter expresses a sick mind. Indeed, there is something unwholesome about nearly all anonymity.

There is only one way of meeting the malicious anonymous letter. That is by at once forgetting its contents. But forgetting may be one of the hardest things in the world to achieve. And in this tact malicious anonymous letter writers find one of their deadliest weapons. They know that if they can only plant a malicious idea in the mind of another, the chances are that it will grow and flourish. But, if it takes strength of will and of character to resist this evil, the reward is in proportion. The moment one yields, one suffers torment. The moment one rejects, one secures one's peace of mind.

Now and then we hear of a whole community thus thrown into turmoil by anonymous letter writing. A study of such conditions will show that several persons have adopted the practice. One person starts it, and others, perhaps through resentment, perhaps through the force of example, do the same thing. I have heard of cases where the consequences have been far-reaching and grave, where whole families have been divided, whole groups set at enmity. For the poison of malicious works like a disease. The fault doesn't lie in the anonymous letter alone. It lies in those who are unable to resist the disease. For moral disease can be resisted by keeping the mind, as well as the body, wholesome. The wholesome mind, by refusing to be interested in irresponsible gossip, is never infected.

If we can reach that state of mind, we need not be concerned about consequences. The consequences will take care of themselves.

Perhaps Not.

"Why do the trousers of public men bag at the knees?" asks a New England editor. Probably because they do not differ materially from the trousers of private men. It is not because public men pray so much.—Kansas City Journal.

Mr. Daniels and the Governors.

Since Secretary Daniels saw a great light, at the time of the visit of the Atlantic Fleet to these waters, he has developed into an enthusiastic big navy man. He put the case for an increased navy before the governors of the States assembled at Boston so eloquently that he cannot have failed to impress upon them the need of inducing the people of their States to support his policy. The people make the navy, Mr. Daniels told the governors, and the people of the interior must to their share in our water defenses as to be adequate. The visit to the Dreadnought Wyoming was a happy thought and the spectacle of the tactical maneuvers of the battle fleet was an excellent object lesson for the governors of States which have no seacoast, but depend for safety on the efficiency of the navy as surely as the Atlantic and Pacific States.

It is in the middle of the country that the most dangerous opposition to the plans for strengthening our defenses is expected to develop. If our outstanding international differences seem to be in the way of an amicable settlement, there may be hard work to get many of the members of Congress to vote for the new appropriation bills.—New York Times.

OUR COUNTRY—OUR PRESIDENT

A History of the American People
WOODROW WILSON
LACK OF NATIONAL POLICY.

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THE States would not tax their people for the support of the Confederation. It took eighteen months to collect one-fifth of the taxes assigned them in 1782. They neglected, sometimes even blantly refused, to pay so much as their allotted shares of the interest on the national debt.

The Confederation could not, of course, borrow under such circumstances. It was threatened with a mere unhonored loan of all its powers and even of its very existence, for want alike of respect and support.

The war had cost the Confederation more than ninety-two million dollars, reckoned in specie. France alone had spent sixty millions for America in loans and the support of armies.

The States had added an expenditure of quite twenty-one millions more out of their own treasuries or their own credit. No wonder the men in responsible charge of public affairs in America rejected with a touch of bitter passion the demand of the treaty of peace, that they should, in addition to all this, restore the loyalists the property they had lost, and pay to British merchants debts which antedated the war.

Trade, apparently, could not recover from the blow it had received by reason of the long continuance of hostilities.

It was likely to be worse, indeed, now that the war was over, than it had been while the war lasted. While the war lasted ship owners could at least use their craft as privateers, to bring in cargoes not considered to be contraband. Their very idleness fostered an ill humor among them, for there was nothing but their bitter grievances to think about. The neglect they suffered naturally seemed an intolerable indignity; and they broke here and there into actual mutiny, their officers hardly restraining them.

There had been times when some of them had been obliged to keep all day within their tents because absolutely without clothes to wear in which they could decently walk abroad.

They had been almost never forthcoming; and they thought from time to time that they had good reason to suspect that the Congress meant to disband them and send them home without it.

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Doings of Society

The Secretary of Agriculture and Mr. Houston, who accompanied him, held for the summer, are on a motor trip through New England, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Breckinridge, of New York.

Mr. William F. McCombs was home at dinner at Saratoga Springs, where guests included Miss Carter, Hubert and Mrs. and Mrs. William F. Hitt.

Mr. A. Bernig, of the German Embassy, attended the races at Saratoga Springs yesterday. Mr. and Mrs. William F. Hitt were also among the spectators.

A yachting party will be given this afternoon in honor of Miss Marcella Vingling, of this city, by friends in Cantonville, Md. Miss Vingling is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Thompson, of Baltimore, whom she is visiting.

Mr. John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Treasury, entertained a number of friends on the Raleigh road Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Dillingham, of Boston, who have been the guests of Miss Helen Butler at Lenox, left for Washington yesterday.

Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Rogers are among the recent arrivals at Lenox, Mass.

The Earl of Aberdeen, formerly Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who recently took the title of Marquis of Tarnair, and Lady Aberdeen, have arranged to visit the United States and Canada during the coming fall.

Those attending the annual meeting of the National Council of Women in Toronto in October, they have agreed to attend meetings in several cities of the United States in relation to social movements in Ireland.

Mr. George T. Mays, wife of the United States Ambassador to Russia, will leave here September 6, she announced yesterday, to return to Petrograd and take up again her work of nursing in the Russian field hospitals. She will travel by way of New York.

Senator Theodore Burton is a guest of the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, where he has arrived after an extensive trip to South America.

Prior to sailing, Rear Admiral William F. Fullam entertained at luncheon on board the U. S. S. Missouri. His guests included Mrs. Philip Lansey, Mrs. E. Graham Parker, Miss Elizabeth T. Hemley, Miss Laura McKinstry, Commander Charles P. Preston, Lieut. Commander Clark W. Rogers, Lieut. John W. Pope, Lieut. Matthias E. Manley, and Lieut. Raleigh Williams.

Arrivals at the Shoreham are Mr. J. C. McDonald, of St. Louis; Mr. A. E. Ballin, of Buffalo; Mr. J. A. Seymour, of Auburn, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Kline, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Kline, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Mann, of Chicago.

Frank B. Gorman, of Chicago, entertained a party of friends last night on the Raleigh road.

Mr. J. E. Johnson, of Virginia, is at the Shoreham.

The Misses Gertrude Wallace and Ida Peterson, of Chicago, are visiting this city. They are at the Raleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Cole have returned to the Willard from a trip to New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Burnside, of this city, gave a dinner party on the Raleigh road Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Dugman and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Yoder, of Pittsburgh, Pa., are spending a few days at the Raleigh.

The marriage took place last week at Yellow Springs, Ohio, of Miss Dorothy Davis and Mr. L. H. Fess, son of Representative and Mrs. D. Fess, of Ohio. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's aunt. The bride wore a gown of white embroidered net over white satin. Her long tulle bridal veil was caught up with orange blossoms and the bouquet of bride roses was one of the very prettiest details of her wedding.

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